

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Dangerous Talk

By Walter E. Myer

THE people of the United States, some of them at least, are doing quite a little careless talking about a highly explosive subject, thinks the *Wall Street Journal*. "Pick up almost any newspaper these days," it says, "and you will read somebody's loose conversation about the cold war, the imminent danger of a shooting war and what 'we' should do about it."

The editors of the *Journal* say that careless talk about the war danger does harm in at least three ways. "First, it gives aid and comfort to any government contemplating aggression, a reason for use of war as an instrument of national policy; a certain quarter of the world is deluged with assertions that Washington is populated by warmongers, that the capitalist world knows that only another world war can save it from destruction by the triumphant advance of communism." "Our visible preoccupation with the thought of war," says the *Journal*, "is about all that Moscow needs to convince a people denied their own access to world channels of news and information."

Among the other dangers which come from loose talking about the war, the *Wall Street Journal* sees a threat to our own liberties. If people are convinced or if they convince themselves that we are on the brink of war, a war psychology develops and it becomes increasingly dangerous for citizens to criticize their government or to express their convictions.

The *Wall Street Journal* does not say, and no responsible person would say, that we should move into a fool's paradise and pretend that the danger of war does not exist. It does exist, and sooner or later a conflict may be forced upon us in spite of anything we can do to avoid such a catastrophe.



Walter E. Myer

Under the circumstances, we must face necessity of our arming so that we may protect ourselves from anything which may come. But it does no good and it may do infinite harm for us to talk about the inevitability of war, or for us to assert ourselves belligerently and provocatively. If or when war should come, it should be clear to the world that we have done all possible to prevent it.

Theodore Roosevelt used to say that we should "speak softly and carry a big stick." A good many people, unmindful of this advice, are speaking excitedly and uncompromisingly and without knowing what kind of stick we carry.

"If war is averted," says John Foster Dulles, "it will be an achievement without precedent; yet that is our task. It is a task that requires an effort like the one required to win a great war. While we are yet at peace let us mobilize the potentialities, particularly the moral and spiritual potentialities, which we usually reserve for war. That is perhaps asking a good deal, but is it asking too much? I do not think so, and I believe that the American people would not think so."



THE FUSE IS BURNING SHORT. Will Indo-China be able to snuff it out with Uncle Sam's help?

The Conflict in Asia

United States Plans Military and Economic Aid for Oriental Countries Threatened by Communist Aggression

CAN the heavily populated countries on Asia's southern and southeastern flanks be kept from falling under Communist control? Men who favor Moscow are working hard—and in some areas fighting hard—in an effort to take over the whole region. The victories of Chinese Communist forces under Mao Tse-tung (mou zū-dōng) have greatly encouraged Mao's comrades elsewhere in the Orient.

Communism now threatens to sweep Indo-China, Burma, and several of their neighbors, just as it has already engulfed China. The danger area also extends to India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Southern Korea, neighbor of both Mao's China and of Communist-controlled Northern Korea, is doubly uneasy.

The United States, Britain, France, and other democratic countries, however, are determined to check the spread of communism in the Orient if they can. Since 1946, France has been carrying on a war against Communist-led forces in her Indo-Chinese territories. Britain and other members of her Commonwealth of Nations are discussing a long-range program for economic assistance to the Southeast Asian lands. Within recent weeks the United States has announced plans for rushing military and economic aid to the endangered regions.

Our government is apparently giving first priority to Indo-China, because that is the country where a war is actually under way. Until recently, Indo-China—which has 27 million people—was a French possession. France has now turned considerable authority over to native officials, but she still carries the major defense burden.

Fighting against France and the French-sponsored native leaders are the rebel forces of Ho Chi Minh (hō chē min')—a wily, Moscow-trained revolutionist. Ho claims to be seeking Indo-Chinese independence. His enemies point out, though, that he has served the Communist cause for many years. His real purpose, they declare, is to set up a Communist regime—one which probably would be under strong Russian influence.

The Indo-Chinese war is confined mainly to one big territory—Viet Nam—which contains about 40 per cent of Indo-China's land area and 85 per cent of its people. Two rival governments have been established for Viet Nam (vē-ēt' nahm'). One, headed by Ho Chi Minh, has the support of Russia and Communist China. The other, set up last year under French sponsorship, is headed by a native leader named Bao Dai (bah-ō die'). It has

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Development of River Valleys

President's Trip to Columbia Basin Raises Again a Very Controversial Issue

The subject of river-development programs is highly controversial. In the following article we describe what is involved in such a program. In a separate feature on page 3, readers will find a balanced presentation of the pros and cons surrounding the subject.

A HIGHLIGHT of President Truman's trip to the West earlier this month was his visit to Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River. This colossal structure in northeastern Washington is the world's largest concrete dam. It is three times as big as the pyramids of Egypt. The volume of water pouring over it in the spring is greater than the torrent of Niagara.

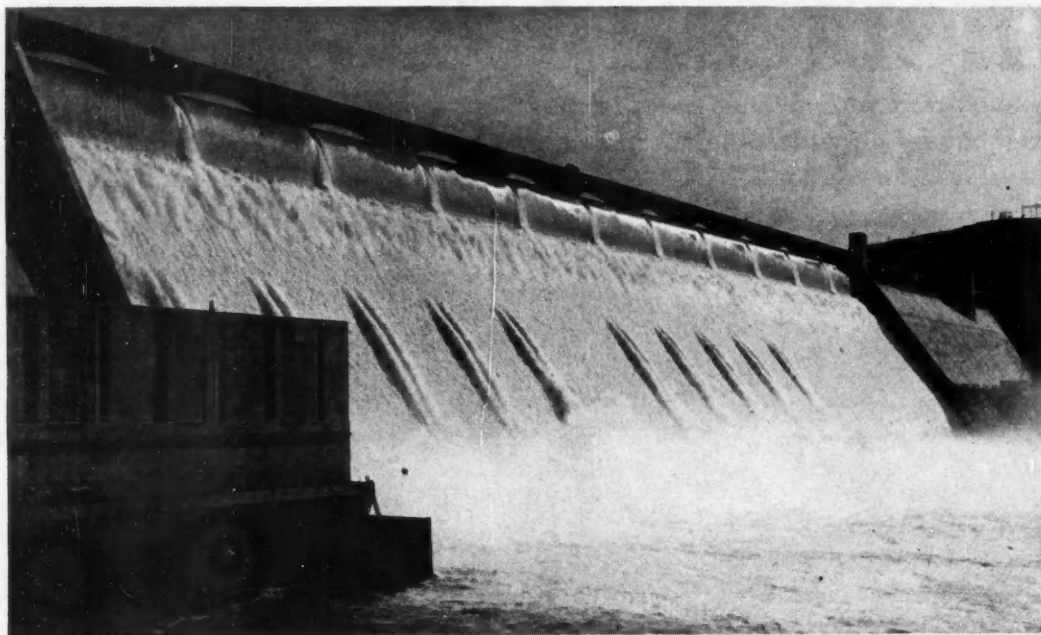
Standing above the thundering, man-made waterfall, President Truman dedicated the dam to flood control, hydroelectric power, and reclamation. Describing the structure as "an instrument of democracy," he recommended that river-development projects be carried out in the most of the great valleys of the nation.

The President's recommendation reflects the strong interest that is being shown both in and out of Congress in river development. Not long ago the Senate passed a bill adding half a billion dollars' worth of river projects to a measure already approved by the House. A number of other bills now in the hands of Congressional committees would bring about far-reaching changes in the water-control systems of some of the nation's major valleys, including the Columbia, Colorado, Missouri, Ohio, Merrimack, and others.

Measures pertaining to the development of these rivers are already being carried out. In fact, the government's interest in waterways dates back to (Continued on page 2)



OSCAR CHAPMAN, Secretary of the Interior. Many river development projects are under his supervision.



WORLD'S LARGEST CONCRETE DAM. Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in Washington provides electric power and water for irrigation. Behind its massive walls is a reservoir 151 miles long.

U. S. Rivers

(Continued from page 1)

the canal-building era of more than a century ago. Some of the proposals which are now being made, though, would vastly expand present programs. If river-development plans now in the blueprint stage were carried out, they would probably cost more than 40 billion dollars and would take close to 50 years to complete.

As an example of what river development involves, let us look at the Columbia, a waterway which is today the scene of a good deal of activity.

Rising in Canada, the Columbia flows southward into the state of Washington. It runs through arid sagebrush regions and is joined by its largest tributary—the Snake River—just before it reaches Oregon. Here the Columbia turns to the west, flows through a pass in the Cascade Mountains, and—1,200 miles from its source—reaches the Pacific Ocean.

The major activities in the region bordering the Columbia have for many years been lumbering, farming, fishing, and mining. While these pursuits are, for the most part, still flourishing, they do not fully explain the unusual growth which has taken place in the area over the past decade. The population has risen by more than 30 per cent, whereas the increase in the nation as a whole has been only about 10 per cent.

A major cause of the population rise is the fact that the Columbia Valley has become one of the nation's new industrial centers. Dozens of factories have sprung up along the river. Nearly half the aluminum used in the United States is now produced in the area. At Hanford is one of the government's principal atomic-energy plants.

In this record of industrial growth, river development has played a major role. Let us examine a number of phases of river development and see what each means for the Columbia Valley.

Conservation. The purpose of large-scale river development is to assure effective use of the resources of an entire valley. In such a program conservation plays a paramount part—

conservation of soil, water, forests, and wildlife.

Dams and reservoirs are major instruments of river development. On the Columbia and its tributaries are more than 50 dams with their man-made lakes behind them. In these lakes the waters of the river are stored in rainy seasons. Then, when dry spells occur, some of these waters are available for irrigation of nearby farm lands. The same waters are used to turn generators and assure a steady supply of electric power.

So long as the river's waters are controlled by dams, they cannot rise above the banks and wash away the topsoil of the lands adjoining the river. Thus, with proper care, eroded fields are being made fertile again.

Reforestation is another vital phase of conservation. Tree planting is being carried out in the Columbia region. Not only does this practice assure a supply of lumber for the future, but it also helps stop erosion. Growing trees "soak up" through their roots the rains and melted snows that otherwise would wash away topsoil and gully the land.

Flood control. Melting snows high up in the mountains raise the level of the Columbia and its tributaries every spring. If rains occur at the same time, flood waters may sweep

through towns and across farm lands, wreaking tremendous destruction.

Such a catastrophe occurred two years ago this month when the Columbia went on a rampage. Flood waters covered more than 500,000 acres of land. Vanport, a war-housing project with a population of 18,000 not far from Portland, Oregon, was totally destroyed. The flood took 50 lives and caused a property loss of more than 100 million dollars.

Destruction would have been even greater, it is claimed, had not many flood-control projects been carried out over the past 50 years. But the fact that such a disaster could take place emphasizes the need for further means of controlling excess waters. Otherwise the amount of damage is likely to rise with each flood, for the number of homes and factories in the valley is increasing. Army engineers are now working on the problem with the object of controlling the Columbia's waters.

Irrigation. Separated from the moist coastal region by the towering Cascade range, much of eastern Washington is arid and unfit for crops. Steps are already being carried out though, to make this area cultivable by channeling waters from the Columbia into the dry fields.

A major irrigation project will be-

gin in 1952. More than 12,000 farms will be staked out in the area of Grand Coulee Dam. Water will be piped from the huge lake behind the giant concrete structure. This will probably result in a big jump in population in an area which is now virtually deserted. And Washington's crop output will probably rise substantially.

Water Power. The remarkable growth of the Northwest in recent years is due more to its abundant water power than to any other factor. The waters of the Columbia are stored behind the Grand Coulee, Bonneville, and other dams. When they are released, the waters turn generators, producing electricity.

Many new industries have been attracted to the region by the availability of electric power. Grand Coulee is now the largest single source of electricity in the world. Enough power is being produced there to supply the two industrial cities of Cleveland and Cincinnati.

Yet even with this output, it is claimed that there is a need for still more hydroelectric power in the Northwest. Many companies have bought factory sites in the region, but are delaying the construction of plants until additional power is available.

Navigation. The channel of the Columbia has been deepened so that large ships can go up the river. Ocean-going vessels can reach Portland, Oregon, and ships and barges of lesser size can proceed much farther upstream.

Work is now going on to make some of the upper reaches of the river open for navigation. When completed, it will very likely mean a further increase in river commerce. At present some 16 million tons of goods are carried each year on the river. The principal items are lumber and lumber products.

In the preceding paragraphs we have simply described what a development plan involves. As we have said, there is a good deal of disagreement over the whole matter, and on page 3 we are presenting opposing views on the issue of whether or not the government should embark on further large-scale development projects in some of our major valleys.

Among those who favor such programs there is still another controversy—over who should carry out such measures, provided they are approved. On the one hand are those who think that the individual government agencies which have long specialized in



IRRIGATED FARM. In the Moses Lake region of eastern Washington is this model farm, part of the Columbia River Basin Project. The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation operates the farm to demonstrate irrigation methods.

various phases of river development should do the job, as is now the case on the Columbia.

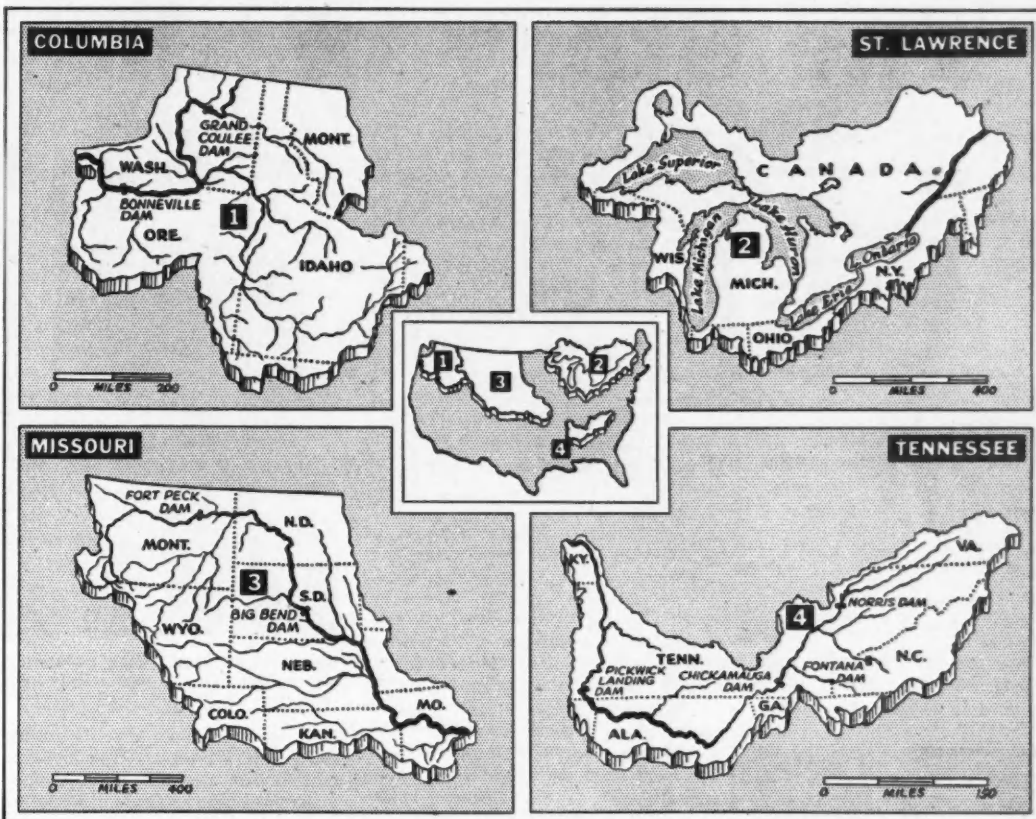
Thus, on that river, the Bureau of Reclamation in the Department of Interior plays a major role in irrigation and soil conservation projects. The Army engineers have a big hand in matters pertaining to navigation and flood control.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is actively concerned with keeping the Columbia open for salmon fishing. The Bonneville Power Administration, another Interior Department agency, sells most of the electric power produced in the Columbia region.

On the other hand are those who favor the approach which is being used in the Tennessee Valley. There a special agency known as the TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) was set up by the government in 1933 with the power to handle flood control, navigation measures, reforestation, and the generating of electric power.

Managed by three directors appointed by the President, the TVA is independent of any federal department. It has to report annually to Congress and get the lawmakers' approval for funds. Otherwise, it is pretty much "on its own," and handles most of the activities which, on the Columbia and other rivers, are divided among a number of agencies.

And now, below, we turn to the other pros and cons which arise in the debate over river-development plans.



FOUR MAJOR RIVER BASINS. There are well-developed flood control, irrigation, and electric power installations in all these regions. Proposals for the further development of U. S. river basins are causing considerable debate.

Shall We Harness Our River Systems?

"Yes," Say Supporters of Idea

WE must harness our major rivers if we are to control the floods which do tremendous damage every year. Since the government has to build dams and reservoirs for flood-control, it might as well make use of the stored-up water for other purposes. And as long as it goes to the expense of developing these projects, it should control all by-products that can help to defray costs.

For example, many parts of our nation badly need water for irrigation. If it can be supplied, arid areas can be made productive, and farms can be established in what is today little better than desert land. This will mean a new source of food for the American people.

Stored-up water can also be used to generate electricity. The availability of electric power will lighten the daily burden of farmers and housewives in remote areas. It will bring factories into regions where they have not previously been set up. This will mean more employment and increasing prosperity for all the people in the area.

The fact that forests have been cut in many regions has made floods more destructive than formerly. Since growing trees help to "soak up" the rains, we must promote reforestation as a part of our river-development plans. Forested lands can be made into wildlife preserves and recreational areas for the benefit of the American people. At the same time, we must restore eroded grazing and farm lands through sound conservation measures.

The federal government is best fitted to carry out river-development activities. Not only do the rivers belong to the nation as a whole, but flood control, irrigation, and other activities of a like nature are too large for private companies or states to undertake. Most rivers, too, run through several states, and it has been demonstrated in the past that states often have difficulty working together on river projects.

Since river-development plans include a number of activities, why not set up a single agency that can view the problem as a whole and thus attack it in the most effective way? A single agency of this nature will manage the project for the benefit of all the people. The TVA, for example, has been strikingly successful in the Tennessee Valley. Floods have been controlled, land reclamation has been carried out, and many new businesses have sprung up in the region. At the same time, electric power at low cost has been brought into many homes throughout the area.

If organizations modeled on the TVA were established in the other major river valleys of the nation, we could expect equally good results. These programs could be financed to large degree with the proceeds of electric power sales and the sale of water for irrigation purposes.

"No," Reply Opponents

IT is possible for the government to take effective flood-control measures without branching out into such activities as irrigation, reclamation, and the generating and sale of electric power. Once the government starts taking over more and more powers, it is soon threatening the basic freedoms of the people. If the process is allowed to continue, Americans will find themselves leading completely regimented lives. The establishment of the "welfare state" which promises to look after all the peoples' needs will inevitably lead us to the socialistic state.

Many activities pertaining to river development do not need to be further extended at this time. It would not, for example, be wise to open up more farm land through irrigation at a time when we have tremendous crop surpluses. And it does not seem entirely logical to build huge reservoirs, flooding hundreds of acres of land, in order to provide water for irrigating other lands.

Recreational areas and wildlife preserves are desirable, to be sure, but they can be provided by states and private organizations. At a time when the nation's expenditures are exceeding its revenue by several billion dollars a year, the government should certainly not take on new responsibilities in such fields as these.

While it is true that the government must play a major part in flood control, it is not the function of the government to produce and sell electricity. It is unfair for the government, backed up by the public treasury, to step into this field and compete with private companies. The American people are not going to benefit by getting "low-cost" electricity produced by the government if they have to turn around and pay higher taxes to finance such extensive river-development programs as have been proposed.

The outcome of the TVA experiment by no means justifies setting up other special agencies to manage river-development projects in specific valleys. While there has been much progress in the Tennessee Valley since the TVA was set up, the fact is that progress in all the Southern states has been widespread over the same period. Much of the progress which has been made would also have taken place had the TVA never been established.

We had better go slowly at this time in extending river development—especially in launching large-scale expensive programs of the TVA type. At a time when our international commitments are the greatest in history, we must be careful not to bite off more than we can chew. Meanwhile, those activities which are absolutely necessary—flood control, for example—can best be carried out by the organizations which have specialized in those fields for many years.

The Story of the Week

Indo-Chinese Leaders

Many people consider French Indo-China the most critical area in Asia's cold war. Here opposing forces are headed by Ho Chi Minh and Bao Dai. Whether these men are true leaders is open to question, for numerous observers say Bao is only a tool in French hands and Ho is but another of Stalin's puppets. But they are at least symbols of the warring groups there.

Ho is between 55 and 60 years old, and has worked much of his life for the independence of his homeland. As a boy, he fought with nationalist groups and at 19, fled the country, fearing arrest. He traveled around the world on a freight ship, arriving finally in France to work his way through college.

There he became active in radical political circles and is said to have helped lay the foundations for the French Communist Party. For a time he lived in Moscow, where it is be-



Ho Chi Minh (left) and Bao Dai

lieved he joined the Russian Communist Party. After this, he roamed for years through China and southeast Asia, some people say, as a high official of the Communist international group, the Comintern.

During World War II, Ho organized his Viet Nam movement and proclaimed it an independent state. When French troops returned at war's end, they attempted to work with him. But finding this impossible, they launched the drive to crush Ho, and the campaign is still going on.

Bao Dai, who is 36, is a member of an Indo-Chinese royal family. During their years of control, the French permitted native kings and emperors to "rule," but French officials always guided the monarchs' actions.

Young Bao was educated to be the future emperor and to work closely with the French. On the death of his father, he was named monarch, but continued his schooling in France until he was 19 before ascending the throne.

Bao's kingdom was peaceful and content until World War II brought the Japanese occupation. With the return of the French in 1945, Bao was asked to abdicate so that France could work with Ho Chi Minh and his "republic." When hostilities between Ho and France broke out, the French recalled Bao and made him emperor of a new Viet Nam government.

Ban Communists?

In Australia, the Union of South Africa, and Canada, national legislatures have been debating recently whether or not to ban the Communist Party. Canada flatly rejected the idea, but Australia and South Africa have

not, at this writing, taken final action.

Altogether, 30 nations have outlawed the Communist Party. Strangely enough, most of these are in Latin America or the Near East, where Communists are few in number.

Perhaps no one knows exactly how many Communists there are in the world. The Soviet Union claims that there are 20 million outside Russia, but U. S. officials believe these figures are inaccurate. According to Moscow's reports, China boasts of the largest Communist Party outside Russia. Italy is supposed to rank first among western European nations, with rolls exceeding even those of the "Iron Curtain" countries.

According to Russian figures, the party has suffered losses recently in France and in the satellite states. This does not surprise western observers who have known that communism is weakening in France and have suspected that "purges" of the Red ranks were occurring behind the "Iron Curtain."

J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, estimates that there are 55,000 Communist Party members in the United States. In addition to these, he believes that some 500,000 Americans are definitely sympathetic to the Communists and knowingly cooperate with them.

Mr. Hoover still opposes the idea of banning the Communist Party in this country. He thinks such a move would only drive the Reds underground and make martyrs of the present members. This might cause secret membership in the party to become more attractive to some people than it is today. He thinks that the FBI can keep a better check on the Reds if their party is not banned.

American Aid

A conference committee has ironed out differences in the foreign aid bills which have been passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. Their agreement paves the way for final action by the two branches of Congress, and enables senators and representatives to begin work on appropriating the funds which this measure authorizes.

The foreign aid bill is a "package" law, including a number of projects. It provides up to \$2,850,000,000 for



QUITE A CHANGE! While his Marine Corps buddy looks on, a sailor compares his uniform with one dating from the War of 1812, on display at the Truxtun-Decatur Naval Museum, recently opened in Washington, D. C. (see note this page).

the European Recovery Program's third year of work. It approves a maximum of \$35 million for helping underdeveloped areas of the world make better use of resources.

Additional authorizations provide funds for Arabs left refugees by the Holy Land war between Israel and the Moslem nations of the Near East. Chinese students in the United States who are unable to obtain money from their parents back home may also be helped under this measure's provisions. And a U. S. contribution to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund is permitted by the bill.

Altogether, a total of more than \$3 billion for foreign aid is authorized, which is less than the President requested. How these plans will fare in appropriation bills remains to be seen. For this measure merely gives the government authority to take part in these activities and places a price ceiling on the work. Providing the actual money to do the job requires a separate law.

Japanese Election

Next Sunday, June 4, Japanese voters will choose the members of the House of Councillors. More than 500 men and women are seeking the 250

seats in the upper house of the Diet (national legislature).

The campaigns have been under way for two weeks. During this time, many of the candidates have expressed themselves on the subject of when the Japanese peace treaty should be completed. An international question has thus become a major election issue in Japan for the first time since World War II.

Some of the candidates are speaking out against any peace treaty which would exclude Soviet Russia or China. They say that a pact prepared by only a portion of Japan's conquerors would be worthless. So they advise the nation to wait until the friction between democratic and communist countries eases before seeking a treaty.

After the peace pact is finished, these candidates favor complete withdrawal of Allied armed forces. Once this is accomplished, they want Japan to become a neutral, taking neither side in the cold war.

Other candidates—particularly those of the party which controls the Diet's lower house—want an early peace treaty. They maintain that a long occupation is not in the best interests of either Japan or the United States, so they are hoping for a treaty as soon as possible. If Russia and China refuse to cooperate, they add, the negotiations should go ahead without them.

After the pact is finished, these candidates are eager to see Japan align itself with the democracies against communism. They also want the nation given a measure of protection by its western friends, for the Japanese constitution prohibits the country from maintaining armed forces. So they would like the United States to keep military bases in the Japanese islands.

The results of Sunday's balloting will not bind our occupation officials to any definite course of action, of course. But General MacArthur and his staff will be interested to learn what the Japanese people are thinking on the treaty issue.

Naval Museum

The nation's capital has a new attraction. The Truxtun-Decatur Naval Museum, which opened a few days ago,



THIS IS HOW IT WILL LOOK. Work has begun on the Delaware Memorial Bridge near Wilmington. When completed, it will be the sixth largest suspension bridge in the world—3½ miles long with a clear center span of 2,150 feet.

will be of interest to many Washington visitors.

The museum is named for Commodores Thomas Truxtun and Stephen Decatur, Navy heroes in the early days of our nation. Its displays feature ship models, weapons, uniforms worn by sailors of bygone days, logs of famous American vessels, photographs, and other mementos of U. S. naval history. Presently on exhibit at the Truxtun-Decatur Museum are pictures, documents, and other materials which tell the story of Americans on the seas from 1782 to 1812.

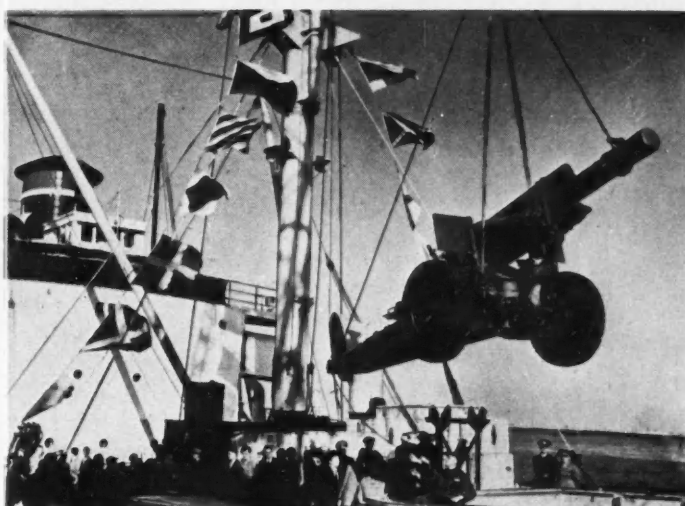
Located about a block away from the White House, the new museum is privately owned and operated. It is in a small building, a structure which was once the carriage house of a residence built by Commodore Decatur more than 100 years ago. Because of its size, the museum cannot display at once all of the relics in its possession. So the exhibits will be changed from time to time in order that the public may eventually see all of the materials which the museum has collected. In addition, future displays will consist of relics borrowed from other museums and from private collections of naval lore.

North Atlantic Allies

It will be some time before the real results of this month's meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Council will become apparent. Bold plans have been drafted by the foreign ministers of the 12 nations bound together by the defense pact. But the transformation of these plans into realities will not come speedily or easily.

The Council's decision to create a single board of strategy for treaty members is daring. Its goal is to get the most possible joint good from the total military expenditures of all 12 nations. In other words, instead of allowing each of the countries to develop its own army, navy, and air force, the strategy board will assign one military role to each nation and tell it to concentrate on that.

Thus, it is likely that we will see the board name one country to be responsible for long-range bombing; another for land forces; and a third for naval



U. S. ARMS ARRIVE IN BELGIUM. U. S. Administration leaders are getting ready to ask Congress for additional funds to provide arms to non-Communist nations.

strength. Then each European nation would no longer strive for total defenses within its own borders, but would develop instead its position on the North Atlantic defense team.

A plan such as the one drafted by the Treaty Council calls for what is perhaps the largest degree of interdependence among nations that the world has ever seen in peacetime. It will also require surrender of a measure of national sovereignty—not an easy thing for any independent nation to give up.

Already many questions have arisen about the workings of the joint strategy board. Some people wonder if European countries will willingly give up their defense forces to support co-operative military plans. Will France, for example, trim expenditures for aircraft and spend the bulk of its defense budget on land forces, if that is the role the French are to play?

Will the European members rely on the joint defense plans? Or will the North Atlantic military preparations eventually become armaments over and above those normally maintained by the individual nations?

Across the Atlantic, other questions are heard. Europeans ask whether

the United States is in international circles to stay. They wonder if we will tire of our role of world leadership and slowly withdraw from the program. They also ask themselves: will the American people come to resent the large sums of money spent on rearming western Europe and demand that such spending be cut?

Loan to Argentina

The recent loan from our Export-Import Bank to a group of Argentine banks, many Americans think, may mark the beginning of more friendly relations between the two countries. They realize that this grant alone will not erase the harsh feelings which have existed for years between Argentina and the United States. But, they say, it is a step in that direction.

The \$125 million borrowed by Argentina will be used entirely for clearing up old debts which business firms there owe U. S. companies. So this single loan will not solve Argentina's complex economic difficulties (see last week's issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER).

It will, however, improve the nation's "credit rating" among the countries of the world. For once these old debts are paid, it may be possible for the Argentines to obtain the funds needed for national development projects. The payment of these bills may also encourage other American businessmen to work with Argentina—selling it the goods it wants to buy and helping it to establish new industries.

New Turkish Government

With an overwhelming majority in Parliament, the Democrat Party in Turkey is busily organizing the new session of the legislature. The law-making body began its four-year term of office last Monday, May 22, following its surprise victory at the polls.

The leader of the Democrats is Celal Bayar. He was once a prominent member of the People's Party, which has governed Turkey for more than a quarter of a century. Just five years ago, he broke with his old party and formed a new political group.

His Democrats ran in their first national elections four years ago, winning a handful of seats in Parliament. They hoped to improve their showing

in this year's voting by taking at least 40 per cent of the one-house legislature. They were almost completely unprepared for what happened—Democrats chosen for some 434 of the 487 Parliament seats.

Foreign policy played no part in the balloting, and the election of the Democrats will not alter Turkey's stand with the western democracies and against communism. The Democrats campaigned against the high cost of living, economic difficulties, government red tape and regulation, and one-party rule.

President's Trip

During his journey to Grand Coulee Dam and back, President Truman took time out at 50-odd whistle stops to make what he called "reports to the people." At these stops, he gave short speeches from the rear platform of his special train. Mr. Truman discussed a number of subjects in this fashion, including farm problems, the need for additional irrigation, preserving natural resources, and foreign policy.

Because of these "whistle stops," many people are still criticizing the



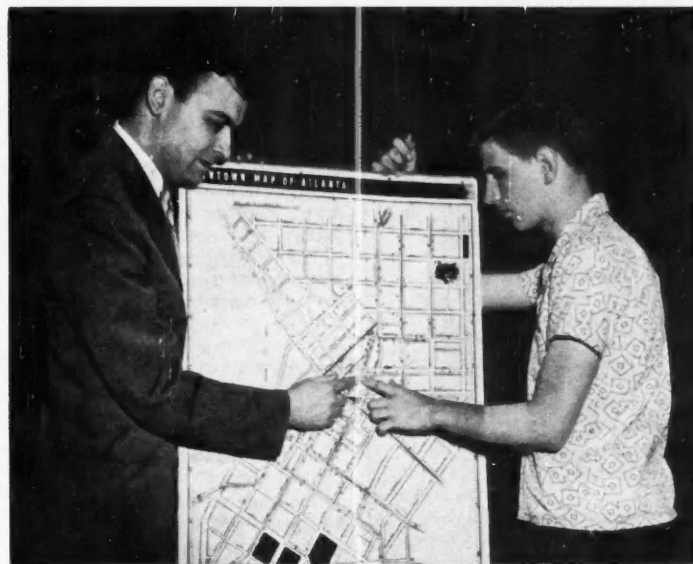
MOVIE OF THE WEEK. "The Father of the Bride," starring Elizabeth Taylor and Spencer Tracy, is hailed as one of the best comedies of the year. It is based on a recent best-seller with the same title.

President for calling his cross-country tour "non-political," and charging the expense of it to the government. They say that his "reports to the people" were nothing more than discussions of political topics.

Others commend the President for making the trip. They think it is good for a Chief Executive to travel about the nation and give the people a chance to see their leader. They also believe that the President learns a great deal about what the nation is thinking while he is on such trips—and that such knowledge is very valuable to him as he plans national policies.

Politicians of both parties are wondering what effects Mr. Truman's journey will have on the elections this fall. Democrats are sure that the large and enthusiastic crowds which gathered at each of the whistle stops mean that Democratic candidates will be elected in November.

Republicans see little relation between the size of the crowds and future balloting. They claim that many people turned out to honor the office of President and to get a look at a President, not to show that they plan to vote for Democratic candidates in the November elections.



NEW MAP for sightless persons gives names of streets and buildings in Braille, and traces trolley and bus lines with string and wire. Users study the map and memorize key points. Frontis Lown, Atlanta, Georgia, teacher of Braille who developed the map, is shown here with Fred Shockley, one of his students.

U. S. and Asia

(Concluded from page 1)

the blessing of Britain and America.

At one time, Ho Chi Minh seemed to be popular with an overwhelming majority of Viet Nam's people. That was when he appeared to be the only champion of independence from France. But Bao Dai's government, given considerable freedom by the French, is now attracting many of Ho's former followers.

France has about 140,000 troops in Indo-China, and Bao Dai has 50,000. It is quite certain that these forces, together, greatly outnumber the pro-Communist army of Ho Chi Minh. Nevertheless, they have been unable to defeat Ho. Now that near-by China is under a Communist regime, Ho Chi Minh may be harder than ever to overcome. Communist nations are likely to send him a great deal of equipment by way of China.

If Ho, with outside aid, could win his war in Indo-China, then the Communists would be in an excellent position to push their campaign for the rest of the Southeast Asia region. From both China and Indo-China they could send help to comrades in Burma, British-controlled Malaya, Thailand, and elsewhere. There would be a great effort to seize Southeast Asia's rich agricultural lands, its valuable forests, and its untold mineral wealth. Communist leaders are already working hard to obtain followers in all countries of the region.

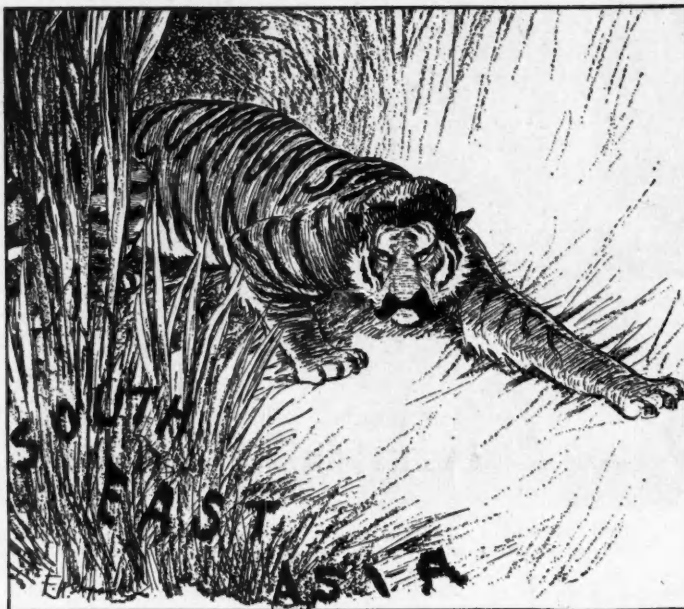
American Action

With these facts in view, the United States has decided on a number of important steps. In the first place, it is sending immediate aid to the French forces, and those of Bao Dai, in Indo-China. Secretary of State Dean Acheson and other State Department officials told of our government's plans early this month. Shipments of trucks, tanks, airplanes, and communications equipment were to begin at once. About 15 million dollars, from a foreign aid fund already available to President Truman, was to be used for starting the project.

Indo-China is not the only Oriental country that will receive arms aid. Military strength of anti-Communist governments in neighboring lands is being built up too. Approximately 10 million dollars is said to be set aside for immediate assistance to Thailand, and Indonesia expects to receive five million dollars' worth. Congress granted several million dollars for military aid to the Philippines and Southern Korea last year, and is being asked for a similar appropriation now.

According to authorities on the Orient, however, we cannot expect to stop communism in Southeast Asia with military aid alone. It is pointed out that Communists make their best headway in regions where people are desperately dissatisfied with present living conditions, and are willing to follow radical leaders in the hope of getting something better. One way to pull the rug out from under the Communists, according to this view, is to show the Orientals that we are ready to help improve their living standards.

We probably cannot get the Asiatics' cooperation if they feel that we are interested merely in putting them "on our side" in the struggle against Soviet Russia. They must, it is said, be convinced that we are willing to promote their welfare.



MORE THAN ONE KIND of tiger stalks the jungles of Southeast Asia. The threat of Communism lurks in the shadows.

Top American officials agree with this point of view. Therefore they are at work on long-range plans designed to help the people of Southeast Asia produce more goods and live more comfortably than at present. The two-year-old European Recovery Program has already shown that such efforts can do much toward building resistance against communism.

The problem we face in Southeast Asia, though, is considerably different from the one we faced in Europe when the ERP began. The nations of Europe had been highly industrialized before the war. Among their people were many skilled technicians, factory managers, engineers, and other trained experts. Democratic governments were in control. Except for Greece, none of the ERP nations was experiencing an armed revolt. As President Truman said recently, our job was "to re-establish and expand a modern industrial and agricultural economy."

In the Orient there is another kind of situation. Several of the Asiatic countries, such as Burma and Indonesia, have only recently gained their independence, and their leaders have not had much experience in running governments.

Burma, Malaya, the Philippines, and Southern Korea have to contend with armed bands of Communist-inspired raiders and outlaws. Conditions are unsettled in Indonesia. This land of nearly 80 million people obtained independence from the Netherlands last year. Disagreements about the organization of a new government have caused fighting in some parts of the nation.

Most Asiatic countries have never had good railroad systems or highways. They have never had factories to produce enough clothing and household goods for local needs. Their farmers must struggle along with such implements as ox-drawn wooden plows. Large numbers of their people cannot read or write.

If we provide machinery for a factory, we probably shall also need to provide managers and technicians to run the plant until native managers can be trained. In agricultural regions, it would be a waste of money and material to furnish tractors and other large machines unless we taught men to operate and repair them.

What Europe needed most when the ERP began was equipment. The Asiatic countries lack equipment, too, but

their basic need at present is to develop new skills.

Economic aid plans are being worked out to fit this situation. A program that would cost 64 million dollars for the first 15 months was proposed by U. S. officials a few weeks ago. If carried out, it would provide assistance for Indonesia, Burma, Thailand, and Malaya, as well as the area held by non-Communists in Indo-China. Engineers would be sent to these lands to help in the building of irrigation systems, power plants, and so on. Local workmen would be trained to operate the projects.

Doctors and sanitation experts are to work along with natives to bring better health conditions. There may be "model farms" to demonstrate improved agricultural methods. It is likely that special schools—for the training of government administrators and business managers—will be set up in Burma and Indonesia.

From time to time, the U. S. Export-Import Bank—a government agency—will undoubtedly make loans to the Oriental countries. A few months ago, for example, it granted Indonesia a 100-million-dollar loan for the purpose of buying machinery, commercial planes, and railway equipment. In Southern Korea, a sizable aid program has been under way for some time. Handled by the same U. S. agency that manages the ERP, it provides such items as fuel and machinery.

Offer to China

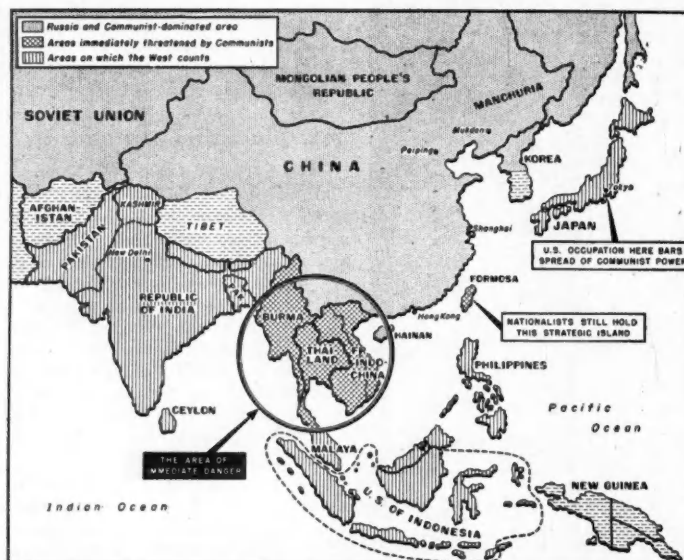
Finally, while striving to help the countries that have not yet fallen under Communist rule, our nation has not given up hope of keeping the friendship of many people in Communist China. It was recently agreed that the U. S. government would offer to send food, through private organizations such as the Red Cross, to famine-stricken areas of that land. Efforts will be made to let the inhabitants of China know about this offer. Whether or not the Chinese Communist regime permits the food to be sent, the proposal may convince people in the Far East that our country wants to help them relieve poverty and suffering.

The various Asiatic aid projects meet considerable opposition in America, just as the ERP does. Many individuals present this point of view:

"The lands to the south and east of China are in such chaos that we are quite likely to fail in our efforts to save them from communism. Our safest course is to conserve our money and resources, and try to make our own country as strong as possible. If we continue to spend heavily on foreign aid, in widely scattered parts of the world, we are likely to wreck our nation's economy. That is exactly what Moscow wants."

Other Americans, including leaders of the Truman administration, feel that it would be a calamity if the whole Southeast Asia region were to fall within the Communist "empire." They contend, therefore, that we should make a supreme effort to prevent such an occurrence.

According to this latter group, our task consists of two main parts. First, we must help strengthen the non-Communist governments, especially with military aid, so that they can cope with Communist uprisings. Second, largely through economic and technical assistance, we must convince the region's millions of inhabitants that cooperation with us will further their freedom and prosperity.



COMMUNIST TARGET. The United States is currently sending military and economic aid to threatened areas of Southeast Asia. Non-Communist people of Asia hope this aid will prevent the Communists from spreading their control beyond China.

Newsmaker

Konrad Adenauer

A NEW political leader is rapidly coming to the front in European affairs. He is aristocratic, graying, 74-year-old Konrad Adenauer (kōn'-raht ah'duh-now'er), first Chancellor, or Prime Minister, of the West German Republic.

A scholarly lawyer, Adenauer has held office only since last September. The new republic of 47 million people was established then under U.S., British, and French supervision—as a democracy, separated from the eastern part of Germany.

In less than nine months as Chancellor, Adenauer has made his influence felt on almost every economic, political, and military action the western allies have taken in Europe.

The elderly Adenauer gained a series of allied concessions this month that will greatly increase his government's power. He won the right for the republic to decide for itself who shall own German coal, steel, and iron industries—which the western allies took over, as trustees, at the end of the war.

The Chancellor heartily endorsed the offer of an old enemy, France, for a French-German pool to sell their coal and steel production to other countries. Such a plan, now being worked out, easily could make France and Germany, together, the leading industrial powers of western Europe.

Adenauer also got a promise from the western allies that more powers soon will be granted to the German Republic. The Germans now send commercial representatives to other countries. Adenauer expects that the new powers will permit him to send out diplomatic representatives to handle Germany's relations with other countries sometime this fall.

Militarily, Adenauer is close to getting a hand in western defense planning. The North Atlantic Treaty nations have not yet agreed to admit western Germany to full membership in the allied defense setup, as Adenauer wants. However, the western nations recognize the military value of Germany in opposing Russia. They are expected to find some formula for the use of German manpower and technical ability in the coming months.

Adenauer, who has played so prominent a part in getting more and more independence for the German republic, was born in the industrial city of Cologne in 1876. The son of a minor government official, the new German leader entered politics after getting his degree in law.

Adenauer was twice arrested by the Nazis, in 1934 and in 1944. He was released after questioning in both instances, but his home was kept under police supervision. He lived as quietly as possible in his home throughout World War II. After the war, he took over leadership of the Christian Democratic Party—which favors a federated republic somewhat like ours. His party's victory in parliamentary elections and the support of other conservative parties enabled him to win election as Chancellor of the new republic.



Konrad Adenauer



ATTRACTIVE BUILDING at World's Fair in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

New Crisis in Haiti

Caribbean Nation Finds Self Without President at Time When Country Is Filled with Visitors for World's Fair

THE long series of misfortunes that Haiti has suffered since Columbus discovered the island in 1492 has not yet run its course. Today, at the very time she wants to appear at her best, the little Caribbean republic is beset by a serious governmental crisis.

This year she is celebrating the 200th birthday of her capital, Port au Prince (paw' tuh prins'). In honor of the occasion she has spent five million dollars—a large sum for so poor a country—on an international exposition.

Nearly two miles of palm-shaded fair grounds have been laid out along the shore of the warm, blue bay. Here several foreign countries have put up pavilions, and the Haitian government has erected some handsome permanent buildings.

But even before the exposition was opened, signs of trouble appeared in Port au Prince. Demonstrations against President Dumarsais Estimé (dū-mahr-sē' ès-té-mé) turned into riots, and police uncovered a plot to overthrow the administration by force. On November 15, 1949, the President put Haiti under a form of martial law. He dissolved three political parties and closed seven newspapers. When the fair opened its gates in December, the political sky was dark and threatening.

It was the President himself who brought on the storm. In April he asked the Senate for an amendment to the Constitution which would allow a President to serve a second six-year term. The opposition, which had been waiting since 1946 for a chance to get rid of Estimé, was furious. There were angry demonstrations against him—followed by others for him. The

Senate voted down the President's proposal, and a mob drove the legislators out and sacked their chamber.

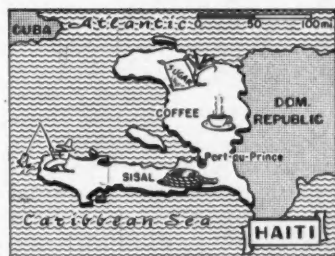
Then the army asked three of its officers to assume the executive power and restore order. On May 10 President Estimé yielded to the demands of these officers and resigned.

Enforced changes of administration are an old story in Haiti. They have occurred all too often since the people won their independence from France nearly 150 years ago. Though the new nation adopted a republican form of government, it never became a true democracy.

Haiti's two great handicaps are poverty and ignorance. The first is due in large measure to overpopulation and a lack of natural resources. The country is only about the size of Maryland, and two thirds of it is covered with mountains. Yet it must support more than three million people who try to make their living by farming small plots of ground. Even with a tropical sun and plentiful rain to help them, they do very badly. A farmer who has one little donkey for carrying fruit to market is considered quite prosperous.

Illiteracy makes matters worse. Only about 10 per cent of the population can read or write. This small group is made up of educated city people who speak French among themselves. Many know English, German, or Spanish as well. But the great majority of the people are poor peasants who speak only Creole. This tongue is a mixture of French and certain dialects of West Africa. Few of the peasants have had any schooling at all, and nearly all are the helpless victims of superstition and disease.

The most hopeful thing that has happened in Haiti for many years is an experiment now being made with the help of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Working closely with the Haitian government, UNESCO is trying to raise the standard of living in one of Haiti's poorest communities. People are being taught handicrafts, children are learning to read and write, and the sick are being provided with medical attention. If this experiment is successful, it may be tested on a larger scale.



LITTLE HAITI shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic.

Science News

One of the busiest reservation desks in the nation is located at the Hayden Planetarium in New York City. It has booked thousands of people for trips to the moon, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn—by rocket ship. The fact that no one knows how long it will be before a passenger rocket ship is developed, or how much the trips will cost, doesn't seem to discourage visitors at the planetarium.

Planned originally as a promotion stunt to advertise the planetarium's "Conquest of Space" show—an imaginary journey through the sky—the reservations quickly began to attract public interest.

Each prospective sky-traveler is given a time schedule. The 240,000-mile trip to the moon, it states, would take only 9½ hours—at the rate of 25,000 miles an hour. A trip to Mars, though, would take 75 days; to Jupiter, 666 days; and a journey to Saturn, more than three years!

★ ★ ★

A television telephone is the latest creation of the U. S. Army Signal Corps' video research program. Sitting in two specially-built booths, the callers are able to see each other just as soon as the connection is made. The feat is accomplished by a small, concealed television device which flashes the images on a screen built into the walls of the booths. Since video telephone equipment is expensive, com-



DEEP PLUNGE. Mrs. Norma Hansen set a new women's deep-diving record in a 220-foot plunge at Catalina Island off the coast of Southern California. Mrs. Hansen, who is 27 years old, is the mother of a 10-year-old girl. Her husband also is a deep-sea diver.

mercial television phones will probably not be developed for some time, the researchers say.

★ ★ ★

The General Electric Company has a new machine that can scramble eggs, mix paint, churn butter, or homogenize milk—by sound waves. The device does its work by producing high-frequency sound waves, pitched too high to be heard by human ears. The waves are created when an electric voltage is made to pass over a quartz crystal. The frequency of the waves depends on the size of the crystal.

Engineers say that the generator is an outgrowth of the effort to discover uses for high-frequency sound waves.

Voice of America Calls Out to World

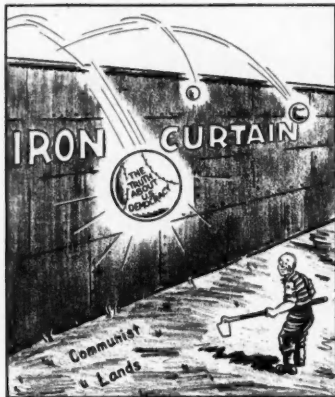
Battles Soviet Interference to Reach Listeners

THE United States is making gains in the "war of words" against Communist Russia. We are beginning to get the story of America spread around the world by our government information services—especially by the government's Voice of America radio network.

We are reaching Poland, Czechoslovakia, and other countries behind the Communist "Iron Curtain" under Russian control. We are reaching even into Russia itself to fight Communist propaganda with our radio reports. We are doing this despite Russian jamming of our broadcasts—that is, making them hard to hear by the use of Soviet radio equipment to send out static and other jarring noises over the broadcast channels we use.

Our purpose, under the information program authorized by Congress in 1948, is to give other people a clear idea of what we stand for. We are trying to overcome the effects of Communist propaganda, which paints the U. S. as a would-be dictator of the world. John Foster Dulles, Republican adviser to the State Department, believes we can do much to win the "cold war" by beating down Russia's false picture of us—by inspiring people to resist Communist dictatorship with facts and ideas about freedom.

The Voice of America is the best known of our information programs.



UNCLE SAM will have to hit more out of the park.

The Voice, with its main station in New York, is broadcasting 24 hours a day to all areas of the world in 24 languages. In the number of programs directed to foreign countries, the Voice is the fourth largest radio system in the world. The British Broadcasting Company is first, followed by Russia in second place and Brazil in third.

We are using 38 short-wave transmitters in the United States for sending out our programs, as well as relay stations in Germany, the Philippine Islands, Hawaii, North Africa, and Great Britain. In addition to our own broadcasting we also provide recorded programs for use by stations in France, Scandinavia, and other countries. The French broadcasting system, for example, carries a nightly, half-hour Voice program called "Here is New York."

Voice programs, at present, are sent out to areas in which nearly 300 million people live. Not all have radio sets, of course, and not all with sets are able to listen. We do know, however, through various methods of



LISTEN RUSSIA! Russian-speaking employees of the Voice of America gather around the mike for a broadcast to the Soviet Union. Voice programs are beamed around the world in 24 languages.

checking, that we are reaching millions of people.

Letters to the Voice number nearly 20,000 a month, and this is the most definite proof that our programs are being heard. Many letters ask for Voice program booklets, others praise the broadcasts, and thousands ask questions. The questions are answered in regular question-and-answer shows. A surprising number of the letters come from behind the "Iron Curtain"—one from Poland, for example, reporting on Russian dictatorial methods, and another from Czechoslovakia, urging that the Voice programs be increased in number.

Gifts from Listeners

Gifts from those who like the programs reach the Voice studios regularly, too. One came from a Polish woman not long ago. It was a miniature cloth dog—wearing a Russian hat with the Communist red star, and, the Polish woman wrote, representing her idea of a hated Russian general. Stacks of Christmas cards received by the Voice each year also are proof that it is reaching people on both sides of the "Iron Curtain."

There is evidence that we are reaching the Russian people, too. For example, a play called *Voice of America* is being shown in Moscow. A Russian critic, describing the play, declared the "name is known to millions of Russians for its lies." Too, the Moscow radio recently warned people in the Ukrainian part of Russia not to listen to the Voice. And the Russian radio or press issues daily denials of Voice news broadcasts. All these signs of Moscow's irritation, the Voice administrators feel, show that the Communist leaders are worried and know that the Russian people hear our broadcasts.

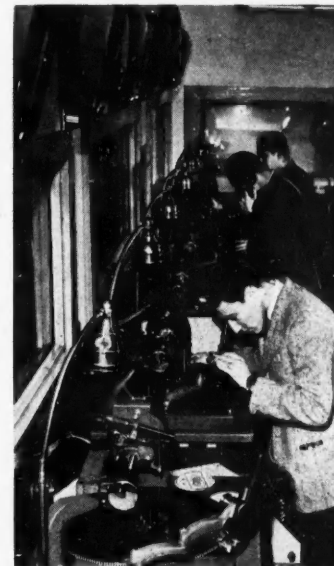
Just how many Russians listen to us is hard to say. We know that there are about 3½ million shortwave sets in Russia, and that the Voice broadcasts can reach all of them—if the Russian practice of jamming can be stopped. We know, by secret means of checking, that we are breaking the jams—as much as 30 per cent of the time, at best, and as low as 10 per cent

in very bad jamming periods. Our Voice specialists think we may be heard by 7 to 10 million Russians.

All these indications show, our government believes, that we are beginning to make gains in telling the world about democracy—with our programs of news, with our interpretations of world events, and with interviews in which American workmen tell how they live in the United States.

In addition to the Voice of America, our government information services include libraries with American books and magazines in many countries. We provide motion pictures about U. S. life, too. In Indo-China, for example, American crews take the pictures from town to town by jeep, set up a projector, and put on their shows in open village squares. Lectures, stage plays, and art exhibits also are provided in many places to tell our story.

By the end of the year, if Congress approves present planning, it is likely that our information services will be greatly expanded. Though we are succeeding in these programs, much remains to be done.



RECORDING engineers working on disks of Voice programs

Study Guide

River Development

1. Where did President Truman recently dedicate a tremendous dam?
2. In what ways do dams and reservoirs play a part in conservation?
3. By what means will additional farm land soon be made available in the vicinity of Grand Coulee Dam?
4. Name four activities included in most river-development plans.
5. Compare the approaches to river development as seen in the Columbia and Tennessee Valleys.
6. Summarize the views of those who favor large-scale development projects at government expense.
7. Give the arguments of those who think the government should not launch any more big river-development projects.

Discussion

1. Do you think the government should, or should not, sponsor large-scale development plans for the nation's major river valleys? Explain your position.
2. In those valleys where conservation measures are being carried out, which approach do you think is better—that exemplified in the Tennessee Valley or the method demonstrated in the Columbia Valley? Explain.

Asia

1. Describe the opposing forces in the Indo-Chinese conflict.
2. If Ho Chi Minh were victorious in Indo-China, what significance would the event have for other sections of Southeast Asia?
3. What is the United States doing, along military lines, to help the anti-Communist forces in Indo-China?
4. Name some other countries in southern and eastern Asia that are scheduled to receive U. S. military aid.
5. Explain why, according to authorities on the Orient, we cannot expect to stop communism in Southeast Asia with military aid alone.
6. How does the problem of giving economic help to Asiatic lands differ from the problem of assisting Europe?
7. Describe some of the non-military aid projects that we are likely to carry out in the Orient.

Discussion

1. Do you favor a U. S. program of military and economic aid for non-Communist regions of southern and eastern Asia? Why or why not?
2. Which do you think is likely to be most important, military aid or an effort to help Asiatics improve their living conditions? Explain your position.

Miscellaneous

1. Why does J. Edgar Hoover oppose outlawing the Communist Party in the United States?
2. Name three projects authorized by the foreign aid "package" bill.
3. What long-range benefits may result from the Export-Import Bank's loan to a group of Argentine banks?
4. What were the campaign issues in the recent Turkish elections?
5. What is the underlying goal of the joint defense plans of the North Atlantic Treaty nations?

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